

29 January 2009

**Retail Trade Indices. Base 2005
December 2008. Provisional data**

**Retail sales at constant prices decrease 5.6% in 2008, as compared
with the year 2007**

Retail trade decreases 6.1% in the interannual rate in December

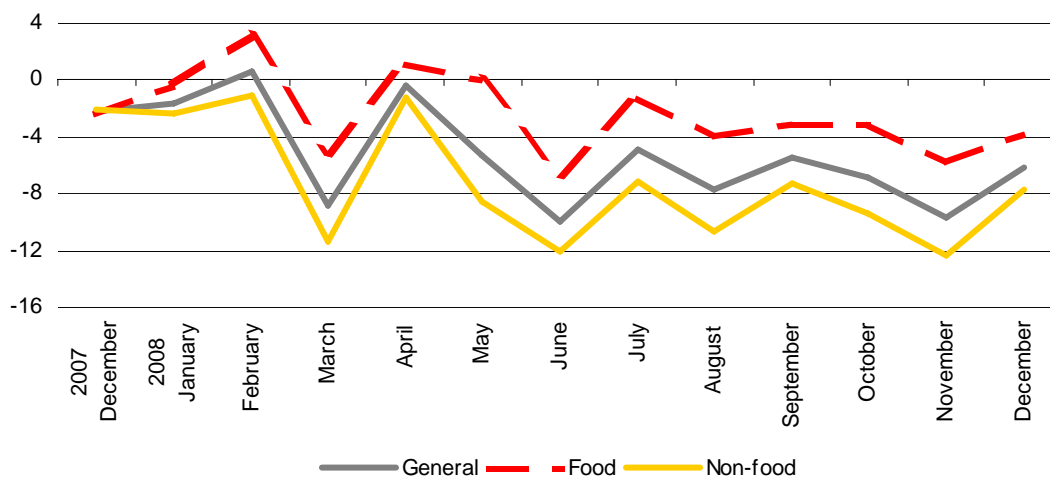
The retail trade index in constant terms (in other words, after adjusting the prices' effect) registered an interannual decrease of 5.6% in sales in the whole of 2008. Food products decreased 2.5%, and non-food products fell 7.6%. A breakdown of the latter by type of product revealed rates of -4.0% in Personal equipment, -12.8% in Household equipment and -4.7% in Other goods.

Retail trade at constant prices decreases 6.1% in December, as compared with the same month in 2007. Food products decreased 3.7%, and non-food products decreased 7.7%.

National indices: general and by group

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	128.0	-6.1	-1.8	117.3	-6.1	-5.6
1. Food products	133.7	-1.3	3.0	116.2	-3.7	-2.5
2. Non-food products	124.4	-9.1	-4.7	117.8	-7.7	-7.6
2.1 Personal equipment	129.8	-8.1	-3.5	117.8	-8.6	-4.0
2.2 Household equipment	108.8	-13.4	-10.6	99.5	-15.6	-12.8
2.3 Other goods	131.1	-7.2	-1.7	124.2	-5.8	-4.7
General Index: Adjusted for calendar effect	124.8	-6.1	-2.0	114.3	-6.1	-5.8

Annual rates (constant prices)



Large chain stores are the only trade distribution class whose sales increase in the year 2008

The breakdown of the general index of the retail sector in 2008, by distribution class, showed that all trade formulas registered an interannual decrease in sales as compared with 2007, except in large chain stores, which increased 0.6%. Small chain stores experienced the greatest decrease (–9.0%), followed by single retail stores (–7.4%).

In December, large chain stores recorded a 0.3% increase in sales, as compared with the same month in 2007. All other distribution classes experienced a decrease in sales.

General indices by distribution class

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	128.0	-6.1	-1.8	117.3	-6.1	-5.6
1. Single retail stores	112.5	-6.1	-3.6	103.1	-6.1	-7.4
2. Small chain stores	121.7	-10.0	-5.3	111.5	-10.1	-9.0
3. Large chain stores	149.5	0.3	4.7	137.0	0.3	0.6
4. Department stores	150.7	-9.4	-2.1	138.1	-9.4	-5.8

Sales in department stores experience an interannual decrease of 5.8% at constant prices in 2008

The general department store index, which reflects the behaviour of sales in premises larger than 2,500m², registered an interannual decrease of 5.8% in constant terms in 2008. Food products and non-food products decreased 1.6% and 7.6%, respectively.

Sales in this type of establishment decreased 9.4% in December, as compared with the same month the previous year.

Department store index: general and by group

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
General Index	150.7	-9.4	-2.1	138.1	-9.4	-5.8
1. Food products	156.1	-5.3	3.8	135.6	-7.6	-1.6
2. Non-food products	148.0	-11.5	-4.9	140.3	-10.1	-7.6
General Index: Adjusted for calendar effect	148.1	-9.4	-2.2	135.9	-9.4	-5.9

Retail sales decrease in all Autonomous Communities

In 2008 as a whole, all Communities experienced a decrease in sales as compared with 2007 in constant terms. The Communities presenting the smallest decreases were Extremadura (-2.1%), Principado de Asturias (-2.5%), and Castilla y León and Castilla-La Mancha (both with -2.6%). In turn, the largest decreases were registered in Canarias (-7.8%) and Región de Murcia (-7.3%).

Retail sales in constant terms showed negative interannual variation rates in all Autonomous Communities in December.

Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation on previous year		Deflated Index	% variation on previous year	
		Same month	Year-to-Date Average		Same month	Year-to-Date Average
National total	128.0	-6.1	-1.8	117.3	-6.1	-5.6
Andalucía	123.5	-7.4	-1.9	113.4	-7.4	-5.6
Aragón	132.3	-4.0	0.2	120.8	-4.2	-3.9
Asturias (Principado de)	135.0	-1.7	1.5	123.8	-1.7	-2.5
Balears (Illes)	100.5	-6.1	-2.3	92.9	-5.8	-5.9
Canarias	130.5	-10.3	-3.5	120.2	-10.7	-7.8
Cantabria	127.2	-3.8	-0.9	115.8	-3.7	-5.1
Castilla y León	129.7	-0.7	1.7	118.3	-0.4	-2.6
Castilla-La Mancha	130.0	-6.0	1.7	119.2	-5.5	-2.6
Cataluña	128.5	-5.8	-2.4	117.3	-5.9	-6.2
Comunitat Valenciana	123.5	-7.8	-2.4	113.5	-8.0	-6.1
Extremadura	138.3	0.3	2.0	126.6	-0.1	-2.1
Galicia	132.1	-2.2	-1.1	121.1	-2.0	-5.1
Madrid (Comunidad de)	134.2	-7.6	-3.2	124.0	-7.4	-6.7
Murcia (Región de)	126.3	-9.0	-3.5	115.0	-8.8	-7.3
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	128.2	-1.3	0.3	118.1	-1.2	-3.5
País Vasco	130.1	-4.1	-0.5	118.5	-4.6	-4.4
Rioja (La)	123.9	-8.3	-2.0	112.1	-8.6	-5.9
Ceuta	130.5	-2.7	1.2	118.5	-4.0	-2.6
Melilla	125.5	-8.0	-2.7	113.6	-8.4	-6.1

Employment in the retail sector remains unchanged in 2008

The retail sector employment index (which shows the evolution for both paid and unpaid workers) registered no variation in the whole of 2008. By trade distribution class, large chain stores and department stores experienced an increase in their employment rate as compared with 2007, while single retail stores and small chain stores showed negative rates.

In December, the interannual rate for the entire sector was -2.7%.

National Employment Indices

	Index	% variation on		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
General index	102.8	0.4	-2.7	0.0
1. Single retail stores	99.5	-0.2	-1.1	-0.1
2. Small chain stores	99.7	0.6	-4.9	-2.5
3. Large chain stores	116.1	0.9	-0.3	2.9
4. Department stores	107.4	2.8	-10.0	0.7

Principado de Asturias is the Autonomous Community with the greatest increase in staff in 2008

The Communities showing the highest positive interannual employment rates in the whole of 2008 were Principado de Asturias (1.9%), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (1.1%) and Castilla y León (1.0%). Conversely, Illes Balears (-1.6%) and Canarias (-1.0%) recorded the greatest decreases.

Employment decreased in all Communities in December, as compared with the same month in 2007. The lowest decreases were recorded in Principado de Asturias (-0.7%) and País Vasco (-0.8%), while the largest decrease was observed in Canarias (-4.5%).

Employment Indices by Autonomous Community

	Index	% variation on		
		Previous month	Same month previous year	Year-to-Date Average
National total	102.8	0.4	-2.7	0.0
Andalucía	99.9	0.1	-4.1	-0.4
Aragón	102.1	-0.5	-4.2	-0.8
Asturias (Principado de)	105.8	0.2	-0.7	1.9
Balears (Illes)	96.7	-0.2	-3.2	-1.6
Canarias	100.9	0.0	-4.5	-1.0
Cantabria	105.1	0.5	-4.0	-0.8
Castilla y León	105.3	0.4	-1.0	1.0
Castilla-La Mancha	104.3	0.0	-2.8	0.5
Cataluña	101.4	0.8	-2.2	0.3
Comunitat Valenciana	101.8	0.6	-2.6	-0.7
Extremadura	104.2	0.8	-1.5	0.6
Galicia	106.0	0.9	-1.0	-0.1
Madrid (Comunidad de)	105.9	0.7	-2.8	0.5
Murcia (Región de)	109.6	0.5	-3.0	-0.7
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	105.0	-0.4	-1.7	1.1
País Vasco	103.8	0.6	-0.8	0.4
Rioja (La)	100.7	0.2	-2.8	-0.4
Ceuta	104.9	-0.3	0.2	0.6
Melilla	100.5	-0.6	-3.9	-1.0

Informative note

Beginning with reference month January 2009, the Retail Trade Indices survey will be conducted using the new National Classification of Economic Activities, NCEA-2009.

For further information see **INEbase-www.ine.es** All press releases at: **www.ine.es/prensa/prensa_en.htm**

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Methodological note

The evolution of the different classes of trade distribution raises the need to study the retail trade sector according to the characteristics of the company, in particular regarding the number of premises or establishments through which sales to final consumers are made.

For this purpose, the National Statistics Institute has extended its analysis, not only studying Department Stores, that is, sales made in premises larger than 2,500 m², but also differentiating between *single retail stores*, *small chain stores* and *large chain stores*. The definitions used for each are as follows:

– **Single retail stores:** those that carry out their trade activity through a single premises that is smaller than 2,500 metres square.

– **Small chain stores:** those companies with more than one premises, with the exception of those with 25 premises or more and 50 employees or more. The small chain store index measures the evolution of the turnover that these companies obtain in their premises that are smaller than 2,500 metres square.

– **Large chain stores:** are companies with 25 or more outlets and have 50 or more employees. The large chain store index measures the evolution of the turnover that these companies obtain in their premises that are smaller than 2,500 metres square.

The indices compiled for each of these groups follow the methodology used in the rest of the indicators compiled for retail trade, and they are published only on a national level, both at current prices and at constant prices. The base year is the year 2005, and data is available as of January 2006, which may be viewed on the INE website.